## THE MILWAUKIE PILOT

PROVIDING THE CITIZENS OF MILWAUKIE WITH INFORMATION TO BETTER GOVERN THEMSELVES

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December 200

## Stockings full of Holiday cheer

For the past eight years the *Fill a Stocking, Fill a Heart* program helps social service agencies in Clackamas County by providing their neediest clients with a filled stocking during the holidays. For many, this is the only gift they receive.

The program began in 1997 providing 500 stockings. Now it is an IRS approved non-profit organization that provides about 2,500 stockings each year to over 20 social service agencies.

Here's how it works. Throughout the year volunteers sew stockings. Beginning in October, people can pick one up and select an age group and gender as the recipient of their stocking. With that basic information as their guide, people fill the stocking with basic items, like socks and hats and toothbrushes and toothpaste, and more traditional toys and gifts specific to the chosen recipient.

The stockings are dropped off at designated sites throughout the county, some of them here in Milwaukie, and then collected and distributed to those in the county who truly need help.

All donations are tax deductibleand there's still plenty of time to help. For more information visit www.fillastocking.org or call (503) 632-0577.



## **Riverfront Park surveys pour in**

In October the City sent a survey to every address in Milwaukie asking residents what they would like to see and do at their future Milwaukie Riverfront Park.

More than 2,000 surveys have been returned, which is a fantastic response, but City staff are hoping to collect even more input before putting together its report to City Council. Surveys will be accepted until Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> and those who have

yet to fill one out can pick up a survey at all City facilities or submit one online by visiting www.cityofmilwaukie.org.

While not all of the data has been compiled, the vast majority of the surveys have been entered and results show there's a heavy preference for Concept No. 2 – the concept that features a boat ramp and on-site parking. The survey

Please see **Riverfront** on page 2

# Downtown progress gains momentum

Building on the momentum of the North Main Project the City and Metro are teaming up once again for a mixeduse development project in the core of Downtown Milwaukie.

With their lease approaching expiration, the owners of the Olsen Bros. Texaco station at Harrison Street and McLoughlin Boulevard approached the City to see if there was interest in purchasing the property for future development.

Milwaukie contacted Metro seeking a partnership where the regional agency would purchase the property and the City would dedicate the property east of the gas station, which is currently a cityowned parking lot, to the project.

With an entire Downtown block within view of the Willamette River available, City Manager Mike Swanson says developers have already shown a great deal of interest in the project.

"I think it's going to have some real potential," Mike said. "I think it can be an amazing project."

Like some of the buildings of the North Main Project, the development will likely feature ground floor retail and commercial uses with residential uses on the upper floors. Mike said the City will conduct a public outreach process when select-

Please see **Downtown** on page 2

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- **4** AROUND TOWN section written by your Neighborhood Leaders
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## **Council adopts rate changes**

City Council unanimously approved staff's recommendation to increase sewer rates in order to keep up with inflation, build a depreciation fund and pay for the City's participation in a regional wastewater consolidation plan at its Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The new rate structure will take effect January of 2006.

A 6 percent increase will be assessed

each year for the next five years. In the sixth year the rate will increase by 3.75 percent.

Two percent of the annual 6 percent increases will catch up with inflation. Another 2 percent will be dedicated to a depreciation fund. If the wastewater system suffers any problems, the City will have capital readily available to fund the

Please see **Rates** on page 2



## Transit Center presents tough decisions

This month's Councilor Column is written by Councilor Joe Loomis. To contact Joe call (503) 786-7514 or send an email to loomisj@ci.milwaukie.or.us.



At the Nov. 1st City Council meeting, the council had to make a difficult decision regarding honoring an agreement that the City of Milwaukie had made 14 years ago to a former resident, Mrs. Dena Swanson. In 1991, Mrs. Swanson sold/donated a piece of property near Kellogg Lake to the City. In return, the City agreed the property would be used as a

park and named after her late husband Robert Kronberg.

What's so difficult about that? Just honor the agreement. Unfortunately, this prior agreement was unknown to the City staff and to my fellow councilors when we made the recommendation for that same piece of property to be the future site of the Milwaukie transit center. So by upholding the original agreement made with Mrs. Swanson, we would essentially be dismissing eight months of hard work done by the City staff, volunteer citizens, business leaders, the planning commission, Tri-Met, Metro, and the City Council that had jointly determined the Kellogg Lake site to be the best location available.

So the question at hand was should we enter into discussions with Mrs. Swanson with the goal of permitting consideration for alternative use of the property in question? This course of action would preserve the intent of the original council recommendation. What's so difficult about that? I'll tell you.

Even though I voted in favor of the Kellogg Lake site and still believe it to be the best of all the alternatives considered, I voted to uphold the original agreement the City made with Mrs. Swanson in 1991. I didn't think it was appropriate to put the burden of deciding whether the property should be used as a park or as a transit center on Mrs. Swanson, who just wanted to honor her late husband.

At the Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the council decided by a 3-2 vote to honor the original agreement from 1991. After deep thought, the mayor reconsidered his vote and on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, at a special council meeting, the decision was reversed by a 3-2 vote allowing for future discussion with Mrs. Swanson regarding the use of the property.

I believe as a councilor you should keep an open mind and try to do what you feel is right. Other people's opinions are just as valid as yours, even if they are opposing. That's why, even though I disagreed, I accept and respect the decision the council made.

#### **Downtown** from page 1

ing the developer. Mike says the City will likely begin receiving proposals from perspective developers in the next couple months. The public process to review these bids would follow in February or March of 2006.

For more information please contact Public Information Coordinator Grady Wheeler at (503) 786-7503.

## **Meet the Planners!**

The Pilot is pleased to introduce Susan Shanks and Brett Kelver, the City's recently hired planners.

Susan was born and raised in Southern California and spent the past year and a half working for Portland's Bureau of Planning.

Susan says she was drawn to the Portland area because of its progressive approach to regional planning, and was drawn to Milwaukie because of its small town feel and the opportunity to work on a wide-range of planning issues.

Brett was born in Lexington, Kentucky, and

has done a good deal of traveling, having studied in Costa Rica for a time. Prior to coming to Milwaukie, Brett worked for a nonprofit organization in La Grande, Oregon that focused on bringing people together to effect positive change in their community.

Like Susan, Brett was excited by the prospect of working for a small town that's dealing with increasingly complex planning concerns.



## Take advantage of City's leaf drop program

Still looking to get rid of those pesky leaves? The last couple of dates for the City's leaf drop event are coming up and residents are encouraged to take advantage of this convenient and environmentally friendly program.

Leaves can be dropped at the City's Johnson Creek Boulevard facility (6101 SE JCB) on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. The City will provide a drop box for paper-bagged leaves and another drop box for plastic-bagged or loose leaves. Plastic bags will have to be emptied on site.

For more information please call (503) 786-7615.

#### Rates from page 1

repairs. The final 2 percent will fund the Clearwater Plan, the regional wastewater consolidation strategy that will result in the removal of the Kellogg Treatment Plant from Milwaukie's Riverfront.

#### Riverfront from page 1

also asked residents what they would like to do at the park so the proper amenities would be considered. The most popular responses were boating, watching a concert, picnicking, using the play equipment, walking and biking.

On Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> the Riverfront Board will discuss a recommendation to Council regarding how to integrate the public input into a final concept plan. Council is expected to review the matter at their Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 meeting. Council will likely select a later date in January where Council, the Riverfront Board and the Parks and Recreation Board will work together in sketching an outline for a final concept plan.

## **Solstice event set!**

The City's Winter Solstice Event enters its third year and as in years past, hundreds of neighbors will gather at the City's Riverfront to view the Christmas ships, to warm by the roaring bonfire and enjoy caroling and warm refreshments provided by the Lewelling Neighborhood.

New to this year's festivities is a musical performance by members of Milwaukie High School's band and chorus.

The event will be held near the Jefferson Street Boat Ramp on Dec. 10 <sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information call (503) 786-7503.



## McLoughlin project ahead of schedule

The McLoughlin Boulevard Improvement Project is moving along ahead of schedule and with the underground electrical and storm water crossings completed, contractors say progress will be much more apparent to onlookers.

In the closing weeks of November sidewalks and curbs on the west side of the roadway were scheduled to be poured, which will allow bikers and pedestrians to pass through the project area unencumbered. Landscaping on the west side is scheduled for early December.

For more information call Information Coordinator Grady Wheeler at (503) 786-7503.

## Give a gift for kids

It's the sixth year of the Ledding Library Toy Drive and it keeps getting bigger and better every year. Last year the Library collected over 1,000 toys for the City's five elementary schools and the Annie Ross House, an emergency shelter for

homeless families with children.
Ledding Library is accepting new and gently used unwrapped toys for Grades K-8. Popular items in the past have been Legos, board games, arts and crafts and beauty related items.
Just drop them off at the Library or any other City building by Dec.
23rd and City staff will make sure the kids get them in time for the

holidays.

If you have any questions, please call Librarian Assistant Nancy Wittig at (503) 786-7582.

## **42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Street** project Open House

Next spring the City of Milwaukie will begin a street improvement project on 42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue between Covell Street and Johnson Creek Boulevard. But before planning gets too far underway, staff will hold an Open House on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> from

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Ardenwald Elementary to provide information about the project and to address any questions or concerns residents might have.

The project will be funded with a combination of an ODOT grant and City funds from the Storm and Street utilities. Property owners will not be assessed for any of the costs of the improvements.

Elements of the project include a new wider pavement section, curbs, sidewalks, ramps, and an improved storm system. It is the intent that the proposed construction will take place within the existing right-of-way. Existing driveways will be connected to the back of the sidewalk with a new

approach to the new curb.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Associate Engineer Brenda Schleining at (503) 786-7602.

## North Main underway

At long last construction crews arrived at the old Safeway site in Downtown Milwaukie in the first full week of November and began moving earth for the North Main Village project.

The project had been held up to finalize financing details.

Contractors estimate the entire six building project will take a year to complete. Tom Kemper, the developer of the project, aims to have a websie up and running in the beginning of December to provide space and pricing information.

## **The City Code Corner**

Written by Les Hall, Code Enforcement Officer

With the end of the year upon us, we tend to get very busy and some things may slip through the cracks. However, with the start of the new year, it is also time to renew your City business license.

Our finance department is sending out reminders to current businesses, but if you are new to the area you may not be aware that Milwaukie Municipal Code states that "No person shall maintain, operate, engage, conduct or carry on any business within the city without first having paid the business tax."

This provision applies to all businesses, including ones that are home-based. If you have any questions regarding business licenses, please call our finance department at (503) 786-7521.

We hope that you have a wonderful holiday season and the new year is profitable for you and your business.

## AROUND TOWN

The Around Town section gives elected Neighborhood Leaders an opportunity to interpret issues facing their community as well as promote greater neighborhood involvement. As a result of this open forum the opinions presented may not always represent the attitudes of the City or of the author's entire Neighborhood. The Pilot and its participating Neighborhood Officers welcome your feedback. Please see page six for contact information.

## LAKE ROAD

Written by Debby Patten, Chair NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. Where: Clackamas ESD

Typically, I like to use this space to let everyone know what happened at our last meeting and what's coming up.

There was a little mix-up for the November meeting, so Heather from the American Cancer Society will be attending our December meeting instead. We

will also be discussing grant funds, sign installations, and special projects.

Refreshments will be provided, so I hope to see you there!

Now for the soap box ...

For me, the last few weeks have been tough. There are a lot of things happening internally in our City and many of us are divided in what we believe is right for the future of Milwaukie. These issues are complicated and confusing.

However, underneath all this, we are all friends and neighbors. Although we

may all have different beliefs and opinions, we should be able to disagree without causing bad feelings. As a Neighborhood Chair, I feel an obligation to listen to another's viewpoint and try to remain objective. This is not only a good decision for my personal well-being but it helps me get along with my fellow Neighborhood Chairs and neighbors.

The decisions facing us are important; however, they are not life-or-death decisions that should tear our City apart.

## HECTOR CAMPBELL

NEXT MEETING'S INFO: When: Dec. 12th, 7:00 p.m. Where: Public Safety Building

For more than six years members of the Hector Campbell Neighborhood have invested hundreds of hours in developing Homewood Park, a beautifully wooded area on Home Avenue between Monroe and Ada Lane.

Past editions of The Pilot have advertised dozens of work parties and the Local Leaders section has detailed the efforts of Landscape Architect Sarah Smith and architect Peter Drake, both Hector Campbell residents, who volunteered their professional services to make the park a reality. Just last month a rib-

bon cutting ceremony was held at the park, a proud day for all who have worked hard to create the Neighborhood's only park.

But now those same people need your help. In early November, on at least two separate occasions, someone came into the park and stole about a 150 square foot section of newly planted sod.

"Someone is stealing from our Neighborhood," Sarah said. "It was built by neighbors, and someone is stealing from us and from whoever uses that park."

Sarah asks those who live in the area to keep a watchful eye on the park, and

Thieves have ripped up and stolen sod from Hector Campbell's Homewood Park

encourages people to use the park and walk its trails in hopes of deterring future thefts. If anyone has any information or ideas of who might have done this, please call (503) 786-7503.

#### **LEWELLING**

Written by Jeff Klein, Chair NEXT MEETING'S INFO: When: Dec. 1st, 7:00 p.m. Where: Lewelling Elementary

This year flew by so quick I almost forget all the things that have happened in

our Neighborhood.

Most important, after six years of hard work and dedication we received \$200,000 in state funding for our park. The King Road Safeway site is signed, the only thing left is for it to be built. Graymor Development has cleared the area for it's development next to the Marketplace

and the North Main Development has started work on the mixed-use site in Downtown. Recently our City Council was able to get back on track with the transit center issue to assure livability and address the growing population of our City and the region as a whole.

Long before any of us were here, people were making decisions with vision and forethought of what the future of our City would be.

Today we are changing as a City because the area around us is growing at an alarming rate. We must keep up if we want to keep the character of the City we love.

We have to make tough decisions that prepare for the future rather than trying to harness the growth outside our City. We can't control that. But you can be a part of the City and help it find it's way. Don't stand on the side and bark at cars, you can make a difference here if you look for solutions, not problems.

I hope to see you all at the Winter Solstice on Saturday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. Our Neighborhood will have a booth again this year selling hot cocoa, coffee, hot dogs and desserts. If you would like to volunteer give me a call. Nearly 1,500 people showed up last year. If weather holds out, I hope we have that many again.

## AROUND TOWN

## HISTORIC MILWAUKIE

Written by Terri Darling
NEXT MEETING'S INFO:
When: Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Milwaukie City Hall

I would like to thank Councilor Susan Stone for her professional representation of our community in seeking the truth about the deed to Kellogg Park at Council sessions on Nov. 1st and 8th. She took a stand and was tenacious in her efforts to make good the promise to the Kronberg's and the people of Milwaukie, whose hard-earned tax dollars purchased part of that property for a park.

She may be small, but she is tall in character, and strong in mind and spirit. It is not easy being the lone ranger on so many issues that come before Council,

and I appreciate her taking a stand on the hard ones, making thoughtful and conscientious decisions, presenting her views in a professional and respectful manner, and most of all for her honorable intentions. Thanks Susan—we will not forget how hard you have worked for this community, for fighting the good fight, keeping promises, and seeking the truth.

## **ISLAND STATION**

Written by Lisa Batey, Chair NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: Dec. 15th, 6:30 p.m. • Where: Milwaukie Grange

Although we usually take December off, there are so many hot issues for Island Station that we are going to meet on Dec.15<sup>th</sup>.

We'll combine the meeting with some holiday festivities, and really hope more residents will come join us.

One of the hot topics for December is the ODOT proposal for reconfiguration of the intersection at McLoughlin and River Road. Of particular concern is the fact that ODOT's planning would turn Bluebird into a one-way northbound street for the block between River and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This means that drivers will no longer be able to use Bluebird to access McLoughlin but instead will have to go down 22<sup>nd</sup> to Bobwhite to come up River Road. It also means constrained access for the guitar shop and for the apartments at 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bluebird.

Anyone who would like to see ODOT's current proposals should contact me by e-mail at lisabatey@msn.com or by phone at (503) 353-1825.

At our next meeting we'll also have the plans/drawings on hand from the North Main, McLoughlin, Three Bridges and Trolley Trail projects on hand for people to look at.

I'm also hoping we'll have the revised Spring Park drawings to review at our December meeting, as well as having updates on potential funding sources and other projects of interest, including Clearwater.

Please join us to meet your neighbors, find out what's going on in the 'hood, and have a little eggnog!

## ARDENWALD/J.C.

Written by Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno, Cochair NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: Dec. 13th, 6:30 p.m. • Where: Ardenwald Elementary

You are invited to come celebrate the holiday season with your neighbors at the Annual Ardenwald-Johnson Creek Holiday Potluck!

EVERYONE is welcome to join us for this very social and informal meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Ardenwald Elementary School. Along with your favorite potluck dish, please bring any new or old ideas you would like our Neighborhood to explore.

We would like to extend a special THANK YOU to the Hector Campbell Neighborhood Association for developing and maintaining a small triangle park located in our Neighborhood on the corner of SE 37<sup>th</sup> and Monroe. Watch for park benches in the coming year. They are looking for a good name...one of our suggestions is "Good Neighbor Park".

There are many projects going on in our Neighborhood and we will also need some volunteers to help move native plants very soon (maybe it's time to implement the "Milwaukie Mudslingers"?) We would also like to encourage ALL of our neighbors to attend City Council meetings to help ensure that our council truly understands the desires and needs of our community beyond the minority opinions of a vociferous few.

Your opinions and concerns may be shared by filling out a council registration card. For more info, go to: www.cityofmilwaukie.org/council/councilfaqs.html (or call Cheryl). Please contact Co-Chairs: Cheryl at 653-7800 (email cherylamoreno@comcast.net) or Lisa at 659-7807 (email rinker@hevanet.com) with any questions you may have.

## LINWOOD

Written by Dolly Macken Hambright, Chair NEXT MEETING'S INFO:

When: Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Where: Linwood Elementary

Linwood did not have an actual meeting for the month of November due to the presentation at City Hall by Metro Councilors Brian Newman and David Bragdon regarding the predicted in-

crease in population for our region within the coming years.

The projections are that about a million more folks will be coming to our area. We must start planning now for where they are going to live and work, not to mention travel, shop and go to school. We must plan within our communities in order to maintain our livability and accommodate this predicted influx.

Make your New Year's resolution to get

involved within your community now and help our City plan its future!

Our next meeting will be Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m., Linwood Elementary Library.

Representatives will present the plans regarding proposed changes in order to make the Sunrise Corridor more "traffic friendly" as our region grows. Please come, whether you live in Linwood or not, to see what is proposed to the East of us.



## City Events Calendar

### December 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MCH - Milwaukie City Hall, 10722 SE Main Street PSB - Public Safety Building, 3200 SE Harrison Street JCB - Public Works Building, 6101 SE Johnson Creek Blvd.	CITY OF			7:00pm Lewelling NDA, (Lewelling Elementary)		Leaf Drop Event 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Johnson Creek Blvd. Facility (See page 2 for details)
MC - Milwaukie Center, 5440 SE Kellogg Creek Drive LED - Ledding Library, 10660 SE 21st Avenue	MILWAUKIE			1	2	3
SE 21st Avenue		5:30pm City Council Work Session, (MCH)	6:00pm Citizens Utility Advisory Board, (JCB)	7:00pm Linwood NDA, (Linwood Elementary)	9:30am Milwaukie Center/Community	Winter Solstice Event 5 to 7 p.m. Milwaukie Riverfront
		7:00pm City Council Regular Session, (MCH)			Advisory Board (MC)  Milwaukie Riverfront Park Survey Deadline	(Near Jefferson Street Boat Ramp, see page 3 for details)
4	5	6	7	8	(See front page for details)	10
	6:30pm Historic Milwaukie NDA, (City Hall) 7:00pm Hector Campbell NDA, (PSB)	6:30pm Planning Commission (MCH) 6:30pm Ardenwald/ Johnson Creek NDA, (Ardenwald Elementary)	6:30pm Lake Road NDA, (Clackamas ESD)	6:30pm Island Station NDA, (Milwaukie Grange)		Leaf Drop Event 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Johnson Creek Blvd. Facility
11	12	6:00pm Riverfront Board (MCH) 13	14	15	16	17
		5:30pm City Council Work Session, (MCH) 7:00pm City Council		6:00pm Public Safety Advisory Committee(PSB)	No.	No.
		Regular Session, (MCH)			*	***
18	19	20	21	22	700	24
		6:30pm Planning Commission (MCH) 7:00pm Parks and	Happ	22 <b>y Holid</b> 29	ays!	A.
25	26	Recreation Board (MCH) 27	28	29	30	31

#### NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

#### ARDENWALD AND JOHNSON CREEK

Meetings held on second Tuesdays 6:30 p.m., Ardenwald Elementary CoChairs: Lisa Gunion-Rinker, (503) 659-7807 Cheryl Ausmann-Moreno, (503) 653-7800

#### **HECTOR CAMPBELL**

Meetings held on second Mondays 7:00 p.m., Public Safety Building Chair, David Aschenbrenner, (503) 654-4258 email: dlasch@comcast.net

### HISTORIC MILWAUKIE

Meetings held on second Mondays 6:30 p.m., Milwaukie City Hall Chair, Ed Zumwalt, (503) 654-2493

email: PEMCZUM@aol.com

## ISLAND STATION

Meetings held on third Thursdays 6:30 p.m., Milwaukie Grange Chair, Lisa Batey, (503) 353-1825 email: lisabatey@msn.com

#### **LAKE ROAD**

Meetings held on second Wednesdays 6:30 p.m., Clackamas ESD

Chair, Debby Patten, (503) 653-7908

#### **LEWELLING**

Meetings held on first Thursdays 7:00 p.m., Lewelling Elementary Chair, Jeff Klein, (503) 653-8639 email: jeff@jkws.com

#### **LINWOOD**

Meetings held on second Thursdays 7:00 p.m., Linwood Elementary

Chair, Dolly Macken-Hambright, (503) 659-8908

## Meeting Broadcast Information Channel 30: NEW!

## **City Council Work Sessions:**

Mon., Wed., Fri.: 1 a.m., 5 a.m., 1 p.m., 8 p.m. Tues., Thurs.: 5 a.m., 9 a.m., 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 11 p.m.

Sat., Sun.: 6 a.m., 1 p.m., 9 p.m.

#### City Council Regular Sessions:

**Mon., Wed., Fri.:** 9 a.m., 4 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m.

**Tues., Thurs.:** 1 a.m., 1 p.m.., 7 p.m. **Sat., Sun.:** 2 a.m., 10 a.m., 5 p.m.

The City of Milwaukie looks forward to any questions or suggestions you might have. Please drop us a line or give us a call.



Community Services 10722 SE Main Street Milwaukie, Oregon 97222 Phone: (503) 786-7503

email: wheelerg@ci.milwaukie.or.us

City of Milwaukie 10722 SE Main Street Milwaukie, Oregon 97222 To reach the City by phone: (503) 786-7555

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